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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 15, 1865.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. ROGERS' MINORITY REPORT.

Resolved, As the sense of this House, that if proper and efficient means be resorted to, to bring back to the army absentees and deserters, and the exemption laws be so modified as to place in the military service the many thousands of able bodied young men, exempt under existing laws, but whose places at home may be supplied by those exempt from physical causes or from age, there is nothing in the present aspect of our military affairs to justify the hazardous experiment of placing slaves in our armies as soldiers.

Resolved 2*d*. That as a dernier resort, should it become apparent that the material for soldiers of our white population has been exhausted, and our armies inadequate to meet and repel the enemy, we will not hesitate to resort to the use of slaves in our armies, in any capacity in which they may be made serviceable.

Resolved 3*d*. That the doctrine of emancipation as a reward for the services of slaves employed in the army, is antagonistic to the spirit of our institutions, and could effect no permanent good, but would inevitably entail upon the country great present and greater future evil.

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